

Update on program development and fiscal health of each system/network

1. Describe briefly how programs are functioning compared to last year. Is there a program area that took more cuts due to the current economic climate? If so, please describe.

BALIS

BALIS is continuing to provide all of its CLSA services. It shares administrative and reference services with the Peninsula Library System and Silicon Valley Library System. This year it has designated one time costs from reserves to start programs that member libraries designated as important. These include an International Language project and a Marketing project.

Black Gold

Black Gold programs are functioning at the same level as last year. We have not had to make any cuts in existing programs.

49-99

Current year services remain at base line levels, but all services will need to be reviewed with possible reductions in 2004/2005 and forward.

Communications & Delivery Program - CLSA proposed allocations for 2003/2004 will provide 42.9% of the total estimated expenditure budget for the Communications & Delivery program, which is deemed a top priority for this System. Local funds from member service fees and reserves will provide the remaining 57.1%. Member libraries and the System continue to increase contributions to subsidize this program and in recent years, due to decreased allocations in CLSA, TBR & PLF, the rise in local share has been dramatic. At a time when many local governments are also unable to provide basic levels of funding for their libraries, the local contributions most likely cannot continue at these levels. The continuation of this program is threatened outright.

Reference Program - CLSA proposed allocations for 2003/2004 will provide 61.6% of the total estimated expenditure budget for the Reference program. Local funds from member service fees and reserves will provide the remaining 38.4%. Member libraries and the System continue to increase contributions to subsidize this programs and in recent years, due to decreased allocations in CLSA, TBR & PLF the rise in local share has been dramatic. At a time when many local governments are also unable to provide basic levels of funding for their libraries, the local contributions most likely cannot continue at these levels. The continuation of this program is also threatened outright.

System Administration - CLSA proposed allocations for 2003/2004 will provide 16.3% of the total estimated expenditure budget for System administration. Local funds from member service fees and reserves will provide the remaining 83.7%. Member libraries and the System continue to increase contributions to subsidize these services and in

recent years, due to decreased allocations in CLSA, TBR & PLF the rise in local share has been dramatic. At a time when many local governments are also unable to provide basic levels of funding for their libraries, the local contributions most likely cannot continue at these levels. The continuation of system administration is also threatened outright.

Inland

The Reference Program has taken the burden of the cuts. The system has eliminated one Reference Librarian position (1 of 4 ILS full time staff, 1 of 2 Reference Librarians) and this will greatly impact the services offered. We will eliminate, or reduce, in-house publications such as our newsletter, the Newbery and Caldecott Award winner bookmarks and the handbook for the Summer Reading Program. Training sessions offered will be reduced or eliminated. System monetary subsidies and staff time available for support of the Children's Summer Reading Program will be greatly reduced. This is an extremely popular and well-used system service that is very time intensive for system staff.

MCLS, Santiago and South State

Santiago and South State Cooperative Library Systems contract all CLSA services from MCLS. This response represents all three systems.

CLSA funding has had no increase for several years, and now, for the 03-04 year we face a reduction. Labor costs, workers compensation insurance, PERS retirement, and general operating costs have surged over the last five years by more than 38%. Reference services and C&D are funded by CLSA at a level far below the actual cost of providing such service, and now, in the 03-04 year, barely over 55% of the total cost. MCLS has expanded services in recent years to accommodate the growing needs of the public library community. Services will be cut very soon if CLSA funding is not increased closer to the level of actual cost. MCLS Council is looking at various options for cutting services, but an actual decision on these cuts probably won't be made until the 04-05 budget process is complete.

MOBAC

MOBAC is continuing to provide all of its current CLSA services. It contracts for administrative and reference services with Peninsula Library System. Last fiscal year they had a consultant evaluate its ILL system in order to decide whether to upgrade the current system or to move forward with the implementation of a new ILL system. This study was paid for with funds from the System's reserves. Although they have upgraded the current system they will continue to examine alternatives in 2003/04.

Mountain Valley

The Reference Program receives the largest amount of non-CLSA funds to maintain the level of service. The delivery of materials among members continues to increase as funding decreases. These two areas will receive a good deal of scrutiny in 2003/04.

North Bay

Since 1992 NBCLS has been a very lean organization. The last library funding crisis forced a reorganization that moved NBCLS into new locally supported programs with very small number of staff to support those programs. The amount of CLSA received by NBCLS hasn't increased much over the past 15 years, but we have added four public libraries members. In 1988 we received \$217,200 in CLSA. The amount allotted to us in 2003/04 is \$220,200. Not much growth in 15 years especially when service to new members adds workload.

The members of NBCLS pay membership dues and fees for service to keep the System viable. In spite of a dues increase, increased fees, and use of the reserve fund, this year NBCLS laid off a .5 FTE employee in the Communication and Delivery program. Another .25 FTE Reference program employee was not replaced upon her resignation. The members are paying more twice the amount into the Communication and Delivery and the Administration programs than is received from CLSA. But can only bear so much of the funding, growth in the CLSA funding is desperately needed.

North State

Belts have been tightened with CLSA-sponsored programs at North State this year since allocations received were 10% less than the previous year. In particular, Reference has about half as much money for materials. Current funding will not allow for any amounts to go toward electronic databases which are badly needed by regional libraries, most of whom cannot afford them from their own budgets. The cooperative/network tries to fund one basic database for our rural members since the state does not offer assistance in this area. Personnel costs also increased in Reference and in other funds. Delivery was hard hit by the Worker's Comp increases for drivers. System Administration costs remained about the same from this last year to this, but funding decreased by the 10% amount so savings are being dipped in to to make up the shortfall. The System Advisory Board funding took a cut of 33.7% and will have to greatly reduce travel. This will be done by not sending a delegate to CLA and by curtailing attendance at meetings.

Peninsula

PLS is continuing to provide all current CLSA services. Staff from PLS provides administrative and reference services to BALIS, MOBAC and Silicon Valley Library Systems. With BALIS, PLS and SVLS sharing costs equitably and MOBAC contracting for their service individually. GGLN also contracted with PLS for administrative services. The PLS libraries share an Integrated Library System operated by PLAN, Peninsula Libraries Automated Network, a program of PLS. Last year an aging server made it necessary to upgrade the shared hardware. An upgrade was also done on the web catalog heavily used by people both out of the library and in it. The System will continue to support this valuable resource since it is integral to its provision of seamless service.

SJVLS

CLSA: Reference Services were reduced most. Support for resource sharing activities remains a high priority: delivery, hardware and software management remain in place. The SJVLS system has a long history of borrowing and lending materials among jurisdictions and there has been no change to that. Some

members could not afford to participate in cooperative purchases of databases. Staff support for future grant writing was also reduced. Reference training of system members was eliminated.

Serra

All programs have been cut back in some way.

In staffing, the administrative position of Office Manager is unfilled after the departure of incumbent for another position. In all programs, the remaining full time staff (4) works 35 hours a week, down from 40. All staff takes a 6 day unpaid furlough over the Christmas/New Year holiday. (Pay cut is pro-rated over the year.) These actions equal a 15% pay cut for full time staff, and 2.4% for part-time. For benefits, an FSA plan was dropped due to low participation and high overhead. For health care, a Kaiser plan with a higher co-payment was selected.

Delivery within San Diego County was cut from 5 to 4 days a week for member libraries. This is an inconvenience for Serra Administration when distributing meeting agenda packets and other deadline materials in a timely manner.

For reference, training is halted. We are just able to keep up with an increasing question workload.

For interlibrary loan, Serra still provides centralized service for members in the Imperial Valley and associate members. We have instituted a new cost recovery fee for loans requested on OCLC. TBR funds support most of the cost of the ILL staff position.

Administration took the hardest hit. The separate Administrative Office was closed and staff moved to the same office as the Reference Center. Without the Office Manager position, staff support of Committee activities was drastically curtailed. Travel and training funds are at a minimum. The System Coordinator no longer attends statewide meetings, a significant cost savings but a loss for communication and awareness.

Staff no longer provides administrative support for the Summer Reading Program, a very labor-intensive project. Programs like Summer Reading are still in transition; the long-term consequences of lack of support can lead to a gradual fragmentation of the program and decline in quality.

The goal is to keep all programs functioning at a baseline level—delivery, administration, reference, and interlibrary loan—in order to serve member library needs and fulfill state service mandates. We are currently able to do this, just barely, with no resources to cover any increase in expense or work level. Staff is stretched to the limit.

Silicon Valley

SVLS is continuing to provide all of its current CLSA services. It shares administrative and reference services with BALIS and PLS. This year it has designated one time costs from reserves to jump-start two programs that member libraries designated as important. They are working with BALIS on an International Language project and with the librarians in the system who provide services to teens.

Arroyo Seco

Every programming area is inactive except continuing education due to the lack of funding. We anticipate one more continuing education program and we did provide support for 24/7 reference service using prior year funding.

Gold Coast

Gold Coast Library Network sustained major cuts. Database subscriptions for members were not renewed; staff positions went unfilled; public awareness programs were eliminated; and membership recruitment ended. The Gold Coast board voted not to add any new participants to the virtual catalog, Cat-A-Link Gold.

Golden Gateway

Last year GGLN provided continuation of some reference services and maintained a UPS account for delivery for non public libraries. It also continued training programs and the ebook consortium. At the annual meeting in March the Board and membership voted to suspend all activities of the network. In 2003/04 the ebook consortium started by GGLN and funded by local funds will continue as a service of CALIFA, the statewide service bureau.

Heartland

Heartland Regional Library Network is limping along as well as possible under the circumstances. The Board is determined to maintain and provide as many services as feasible, given the extremely limited resources. The Board voted to prepay for some services, thereby offering the members continued...but reduced...services. The largest cut has probably occurred in the site delivery program, which has been reduced to delivery on demand.

The tragedy in all this is that these cutbacks have occurred just at the time we were beginning to "prove our worth." Members were starting to understand the mission of the Region and to count on it for services and support not available to them prior to the inception of the LoC. This should have been the time when HRLN would have been able to forge ahead and make an immediate and lasting impact on library service in this area.

The miracle is that for the first time libraries of all types are really working together to enhance library service to their patrons. HRLN is determined to continue these collaborative efforts. The Region has been granted non-profit status and will remain operating in a limited capacity until funding is restored.

Sierra Valley

Program element: 18841. (Administration) This program is threatened outright, and is unlikely to continue past 2004/2005. **Administration and management:** A significantly reduced budget meant the system was unable to provide subsidized reference services or pursue development of service element committees. Additional assessment of interest in and need for sub-regional interest groups was not conducted and no meetings are planned. Committees were formed, but never met. This effort has been put on hold, until further is known about the future of the Library of California. **Membership**

development: New memberships are not being actively solicited and updates of potential member lists and other information may not be maintained. The Network will disseminate information about SVLN to potential members upon request only. **CLSA Transition:** The Network contracted with a consulting firm, the Public Strategies Group (PSG) of Minneapolis, MN, to study all issues involved in integrating MVLS and 49-99/CAL with SVLN. The resulting final report was received in late 2002, and while the resulting recommendations were very inspiring, it is most unlikely that the Network will pursue these options in light of the budget situation. **Development of policies and protocols:** Development of and recommendations for policies/protocols for all program elements, for regional resource centers, and for other information providers has been delayed. **Consortium pricing:** Consideration of network brokered consortium pricing for electronic databases, books and other materials is postponed until funding is available. At a time when many local governments are also unable to provide basic levels of funding for their libraries, local contributions are unlikely.

Program element: 18842. (Telecommunications Infrastructure) This program is threatened outright, and is unlikely to continue past 2004/2005. **Regional Web site:** Additional enhancements to the network Web site have been postponed and maintenance has been minimized; links to network member Web sites will be added only as time allows. **Videoconferencing:** The study of options for using videoconferencing to facilitate regional communications, especially with geographically isolated members, has been postponed. **Automation/ Technology:** provision of technical assistance to network members is minimal (remote only). A market survey of available ILL systems that enable patron initiated holds has been postponed. Regional technology planning contracts were eliminated, including development of automation standards for new network members. **Technology inventory:** expansion of the technology inventory to additional network members, and provision of funding for one-time costs, such as small equipment and telecommunications installations, has been discontinued. At a time when many local governments are also unable to provide basic levels of funding for their libraries, local contributions are unlikely.

Program element: 18842. (Regional Delivery) This program is threatened outright, and is unlikely to continue past 2004/2005. Due to lack of available resources and funding, SVLN has not been able to extend delivery to additional network members or to contract with a consultant to study delivery options for all network members. Determination of member institution needs regarding frequency of delivery through a regional delivery study has been postponed. At a time when many local governments are also unable to provide basic levels of funding for their libraries, local contributions are unlikely.

Program element: 18845. (Training and Continuing Education) This program effectively ended after 2001/2002, and further development is unlikely. **Reference training:** Reference training needs assessment of network members has been informal and at a local system level; development and provision of reference training in response to needs identified is available only on a cost-recovery basis. **Technology training:** Provision of training in areas of technology has ended as a funded service, although when available may be provided on a cost-recovery basis. **Other training:** Delivery of training

to sub-regional, geographically proximate groups is available only on a cost-recovery basis. At a time when many local governments are also unable to provide basic levels of funding for their libraries, local contributions are unlikely.

Program element: 18846. (Information and Referrals) This program effectively ended after 2001/2002, and further development is unlikely. **Reference and information provision:** Due to the lack of funding, provision of second-level reference service to members of SVLN has not been made available, not even on a pay-for-service basis by staff of the system reference centers. **Interlibrary loan:** planning for patron-initiated, “staff-less” automated interlibrary lending has been postponed. **Electronic database licensing:** Exploration of licensing options for network members has been postponed, as has been assessment of long-term options and costs for electronic databases. At a time when many local governments are also unable to provide basic levels of funding for their libraries, local contributions are unlikely.

Tierra del Sol

Has no functions this year other than minimal consortium pricing for one electronic database vendor, coordination of 24/7 Reference Service and activities as required by law (Meetings – Board and Council; Reports – state and federal taxes, FPPC, LoC Annual Report, Annual Plan of Service, Long Range Plan of Service, Financial, etc.; Record keeping – Fiscal and Financial, Meeting Agendas and Minutes) CLSA System staff is providing coordination of 24/7 Reference Service for TDS members and answers 2nd level reference questions referred thru the 24/7 software.

2. Describe the fiscal health of your system/network.

BALIS, MOBAC, Peninsula and Silicon Valley

BALIS' CLSA funds have been reduced and system membership fees have not been raised. They will use reserve funds to pay for any enhanced programs in 2003/04 and may need to consider raising membership fees 2004/05. The four Councils voted to fund membership fees plus deposit accounts for the CALIFA Group to help members purchase products and services at the lowest possible price.

Black Gold

Black Gold's fiscal health remains stable. Delivery costs will be an issue which will require consideration this year.

49-99

49-99 Cooperative Library System continues to provide services utilizing reserves and local member fee revenue in 2003/2004. It is possible that reductions in services could be in the future for 2004/2005 and further, as system reserves continue to decrease and the ability of member libraries to subsidize CLSA funding is eroded by budget cuts from their local jurisdictions.

Inland

In addition to eliminating 25% of the full time staff, ILS has used reserves to balance the 2003/2004 budget. Without additional money, further cuts and reductions are anticipated. Member libraries are also experiencing budget cuts and are unable to increase their member fees. ILS staff has been streamlining and tightening costs for several years and the operations budget is cut back about as far as it can go. We are struggling to survive.

MCLS, Santiago and South State

MCLS is projected to have a deficit of at least 200K for the 03-04 year. Severe service cuts will be initiated for the 04-05 year if CLSA funding is not increased. MCLS provides a number of services to public libraries that are not funded by CLSA - such as staff development, cooperative purchases, consulting services, special programs (Summer Reading Program), and administrative services. These services, as well as Reference and C&D, are subject to cuts in the next year if funding is not increased. SLS, South State, and the CLSA component of MCLS would eventually look toward liquidation, in a worst case scenario, by the 06-07 year.

Mountain Valley

MVLS will use reserves and other sources of revenue in FY 03/04. Further service reductions are anticipated for FY 04/05.

North Bay

The members voted a very large dues and service fee increase on themselves for FY 2003/04 and 04/05. They want and need to keep the System alive because they rely on

the services. We also have a reserve fund that has been tapped every year since 1996 to cover the shortfall. Using the reserve is always done with great reluctance. The reserve was created to allow the development of new programs such as SuperSearch. Without the reserve to initiate the program and the LSCA grant to launch it, SuperSearch wouldn't exist.

North State

The North State System is concerned about declining CLSA allotments in recent years since our expenses and services have not gone down. Delivery service is a given in our large, rural area and is becoming harder to support each year. Cutbacks in number of stops have been made. North State is able to shore up its budget to some extent through TBR from its Video Center, Listen In, and from its members, but this year reserves are being tapped that do not have obvious replacements. Some additional funds have come from fiscal agent fees for LSTA grants, but those too are declining in the next year. With the current economy, our small rural libraries are suffering cuts of up to 20%. They rely on system services more than ever. With cash on hand and current operations, the System can continue services at a very basic level but cannot add new things or make progress. A resource-sharing network is needed, one basic periodical database is needed, and improved technical infrastructure and sophistication are badly needed. With the dim financial future, we are only able to preserve the status quo, and actually that is diminishing as described in #1.

SJVLS

Member contributions were reduced by 40%.

Serra

Serra is maintaining a just barely balanced budget, last year's difference between expenditures and income was \$2,000+ in the black. We live on our membership fee income and general reserves until the state CLSA check comes. If that check is delayed past mid-November, Serra will have to borrow money to cover operating expenses. We can do so from the County of San Diego, interest is estimated at 2%. But, this is a real burden in a year of short funds.

As described under question #1, we are able to maintain the status quo at the present time. However, we are very leery of more cuts. Little can be done to invest in infrastructure. We have no resources to replace equipment if needed during the coming year. We just hope nothing breaks. Little innovative programming or planning can be done; we're too busy surviving.

If TBR is eliminated, as was threatened for this year, one service area and a staff position will be gone. We earn \$12,000 to \$14,000 per year in TBR.

More cuts will make it all but impossible to provide a meaningful level of service.

Arroyo Seco

The fiscal health of ASLN is on "life support." This is a very critical time for ASLN. Without adequate financial support ASLN will cease all operations. The fiscal year end

report is not yet received from Mr. Steve McGregor so ASLN cannot determine its account balance.

Volunteerism and a commitment to the goals of the Library of California are what keeps ASLN functioning at this point but it cannot go on like this indefinitely.

Cascade Pacific

The regional network, Cascade Pacific, is in a stand-by mode this year. It has a very minimum amount of funds (about \$5000) to use to continue its status as a nonprofit corporation but not enough to pay for any services for its members.

Gold Coast

Gold Coast's fiscal health is terminal. We have been able to keep the virtual catalog, Cat-A-Link Gold, going for this fiscal year. However, its future survival is tenuous as we are looking at alternate sources of funding after the joint Black Gold/ North Bay LSTA grant proposal was denied. Membership and/or user fees may be considered.

Golden Gateway

GGLN has no budget this year, but all non-public members of the network have been designated charter members of the CALIFA group, the statewide service bureau in order to purchase products and services at the lowest possible price.

Heartland

Since we have no state funding, the amount of money we have available to us is simply what we have earned in interest, which is under \$500.

Sierra Valley

The fiscal health of SVLN can be described as in a state of decline, at best. The description given the *Bodie State Historic Park* comes to mind: "***In a state of arrested decay.***" There are currently enough funds held in reserve to sustain the programs and services as described above for only one year beyond the current year. To sustain these programs and services beyond 2004/2005 would require new funding from the Library of California or other sources. Neither SVLN nor CLSA members and associates would be likely to allocate system resources to support any of the unfunded Library of California services and thus, the network would become moribund.

Tierra del Sol

Has just enough reserves to contract staff to provide a minimal level of service. TDS can fund this minimal level of service for perhaps another two years.

3. Which program areas are the most important for the Board to emphasize in advocating to restore services?

BALIS, MOBAC, Peninsula and Silicon Valley

All of the Systems benefit from TBR and it is important for the Board to continue to advocate the increase of this program. Of the CLSA system programs an increase in communication and delivery is essential to continue to share resource. It is also important to work for restoration of PLF funds because CLSA Systems depend on healthy public libraries.

Black Gold

Black Gold would emphasize the importance of healthy funding levels for TBR's and PLF. Maintenance of effort for LSTA is important if we are to have the money to explore more creative service concepts. That requires adequate funding for the State Library. Support for System Advisory Boards needs to be firmed up if they are to serve as effective advocates.

49-99

Resource Sharing as the basis for all CLSA programming has been and continues to be the critical element for library cooperation throughout the state. Resource Sharing including the delivery and TBR programs must be at the forefront of all advocacy efforts, while the effectiveness of this fundamental philosophy continues to be demonstrated by the CLSA systems. 49-99/CAL, as a multi-type cooperative, has historically worked hard to develop and maintain cooperative relationships among all of our members of public, academic and special libraries.

Funding for effective, efficient delivery is critical to all those participating in resource sharing elements, including ILL, which continues to grow and expand every year. The Communications & Delivery program element especially and the TBR program must be emphasized when advocating for restored funding & services. These are fundamental to maintaining the resource sharing foundations that have been developed the past two decades between 49-99/CAL libraries, and others throughout the state.

Inland

Delivery is often cited as the highest-priority system service.

Transaction Based Reimbursements (TBR) is a critical factor for libraries to continue cooperatively sharing their collections with other libraries. (TBRs and delivery service are very much interrelated).

The Inland Messenger, our bi-monthly newsletter, is an important communication and training tool that should be supported.

Our reference statistics show there is a demand for Second Level Reference, especially at the smaller libraries.

A variety of staff from libraries of all sizes attends training sessions. Budget support is needed to bring in paid speakers to present the sessions or to subsidize InfoPeople training sessions. Also, budget support to bring the training sessions to library staff in geographically isolated communities.

MCLS, Santiago and South State

TBR, reference, and delivery are the most essential. All programs are currently underfunded. CLSA reference needs to be restructured to yield greater efficiency and wiser application of state funding.

Mountain Valley

TBR must be maintained at a significant level. Without it library cooperation will begin to unravel. ILL among MVLS members continues to increase and an effective delivery service will be crucial in maintaining these gains.

North Bay

TBR is vital. Resource sharing a vital service to members. Individually their collections are weak. Offered a whole through SuperSearch gives the North Bay region a strong collection. Local jurisdictions are reluctant to share without some incentive. TBR provides that incentive. Also, restoration of funds for delivery would provide a great deal of relief. To share resources, delivery is required. It is the most costly program that we operate.

If we have to eliminate a program, make it the SAB. The services provided by the System are designed in response to the needs of the member libraries. The member libraries have citizen boards that are shaping the programs delivered by the libraries. The representation of citizens is alive and well at the member level. It is duplicative to have at the System level.

North State

TBR is extremely important to this region, and its restoration this year was cause for celebration. TBR helps to support the basic CLSA programs and other local ones. PLF is also vitally important to augment regional libraries' budgets. Without healthy funding of PLF, libraries cannot maintain ILL efforts or effective staffing and materials. Several of them cut staff and ILL recently. Our region depends heavily on its Reference Center for second level reference, for consulting, and for innovation and startup of new services. A maintenance level of support is needed there. Mentioned earlier is the need for support of delivery to facilitate resource sharing. Other methods of delivery are not available at affordable prices in this rural part of the state.

SJVLS

LoC should advocate for restoration of cooperative database purchases either at the System level or the State level.

Systems designed to promote resource sharing activities should be a prime consideration, e.g., TBR funding, support for delivery, and funding for communications/resource sharing systems.

Programs which support training geographically isolated staff are important.

Serra

Serra's Administrative Council discussed this question at its September 25th meeting and TBR emerged as a key priority, both for the System and individual members. The System uses TBR funds to support ILL and Reference services. TBR is the hinge on which universal borrowing turns. The California library community has worked hard on this concept for 40 years, and we must remain committed.

Training was another priority. Systems offer opportunities that are difficult to organize on an individual basis. Training also facilitates networking among staffs of various libraries. In Serra, funding for Reference and Administration pays for the staff and overhead necessary to organize, publicize, and keep financial records on training events.

Serra members in the Imperial Valley feel that delivery, interlibrary loan, and TBR are their top priorities.

A larger policy approach Serra members would like to see is exploration of ways to restructure library funding. What can libraries do to raise funds if state funds are not available? Regulation or legislative changes may be needed to institute new fees, from users for instance, to substitute for lost revenue.

Multiple solutions will help libraries and CLSA systems, plus the Library of California, survive and thrive in the future.

Arroyo Seco

Training and professional and para-professional development opportunities were successful. These services should be restored. ASLN filled a niche in that all attendees were not charged fees as long as their library was a member of ASLN. All types of libraries benefited.

None of the programs mentioned above can successfully occur without administrative support. There are a multitude of schedules, details and communications that are beyond the scope of various volunteers.

Gold Coast

Gold Coast would continue its virtual catalog with any level of funding that might be forthcoming. It has become an important service that patrons truly value.

Heartland

The LoC vision was developed over a great number of years, involving a large number of luminaries, seeking to produce a workable set of ideals to meet the library needs of a vast populace. The policies and procedures were designed to meet the needs of all types of libraries and their patrons. Each area of service articulated by this body is extremely important. HRLN determined that training was necessary to not only imbue the member with necessary skill to use the services of the Region, but to also inform members of the benefits of belonging to the network. Training and outreach to prospective and current members are two major interests of the Heartland Regional Library Network.

Sierra Valley

Resource Sharing, including delivery and TBR programs, has been and continues to be a critical element for library cooperation throughout the state; it should be prominent in all advocacy efforts. Libraries of all types in the SVLN region and throughout California have a history of working hard to develop and maintain cooperative relationships in order to facilitate resource sharing. Efficient regional delivery is the cornerstone of effective resource sharing, and funding to support delivery to all libraries in the state is critical to the success of a program that continues to grow and expand every year in response to increasing demand.

A successful resource sharing program also depends on a well developed telecommunications infrastructure. All libraries must have access to a regional Web site and virtual catalog of regional holdings, as well as online access to patron-initiated interlibrary borrowing. Funding to support needs analysis and extension of the regional telecommunications network to all participants in the Library of California is a critical element of the program.

Funding must also be available to support administration. The costs associated with maintaining and administering an effective statewide resource sharing program cannot be born by the individual members; the funds are simply not available. Without adequate support from the state for administration, the regional networks will cease to exist and the vision of the Library of California will no longer be viable.

Tierra del Sol

Transaction Based Reimbursements is an important support factor for libraries to cooperatively share their collections with other libraries.

24/7 Reference Service has proven to be very popular. TDS should support coordination, training and follow-up efforts for this service. Current staffing levels do not allow for adequate customer service to be provided.

We hear over and over that Consortium purchasing of electronic databases is a very desirable service to all types and sizes of libraries.

General Comments:

Mountain Valley

MVLS struggles to survive. CLSA programs have seen no significant funding increases for at least 15 years. Each time there are cuts to CLSA a new baseline is established and the burden of funding shortfalls is shifted to the member libraries. And the news gets worse. The recent letter from Dr. Starr suspending the open competitive LSTA grant program means that CLSA systems now have one less avenue for funds. We are in a world of hurt.

The Reference Component of CLSA operates under antiquated regulations. This component needs to be studied and revamped.

I would strongly urge the Board to remove all funding for SAB activities.

Inland

California Library Services Act -- Many people have spent years working to make the CLSA programs successful and useful to libraries. In the Inland service area, the public libraries began to form cooperative agreements nearly 40 years ago. Now we are watching it dwindle slowly away.

Library of California -- For many years, large numbers of people from all types of libraries in our region worked extremely hard to make the Tierra del Sol Regional Library Network a reality. We had a great momentum, cohesion was growing among the libraries in our region and we were ready to begin the implementation of our service plans. A relatively small amount of money (compared to the entire state budget) could have made a real difference to the libraries and the 6.5 million Californians in this region. It is very disheartening to have wasted all that time, energy and money.